

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict. cap. 63.)

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

FURTHER INQUIRY

TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE BOUNDARY, FOR THE
PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,

OF THE DISTRICT OF

ACCRRINGTON,

IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON :

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1852.

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 10th day of February next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a further Inquiry to determine the future Boundary, for the Purposes of the Public Health Act, of the Townships of OLD and NEW ACCRINGTON, in the County of Lancaster; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

C. MACAULAY, *Secretary.*

Whitehall, 22d December 1852.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

Report to the General Board of Health on a further Inquiry held at ACCRINGTON, to determine the future Boundary of the District for the Purposes of the Public Health Act. By WILLIAM RANGER, Superintending Inspector.

2A, Pall Mall, London,
24th November 1852.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the following Report upon a second Inquiry held at Accrington, to determine the boundaries of the district for the purposes of the Public Health Act, the report upon the preliminary inquiry having recommended the formation of the two townships of Old and New Accrington into one district.

OPENING OF THE INQUIRY.—The inquiry was opened at the Sessions Room, on the 22d of September 1852, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time I found the following gentlemen assembled:—

Messrs. Jonathan Hargreaves, James Grimshaw, William Dewhurst, George Bannister, Charles Hall, John Arkwright, Edmund Hepple, Samuel Dugdale, Reginald Massey, Swain Rhodes, Henry Cunliffe, Henry Clegg, &c.

Before the commencement of proceedings, I received information from Mr. Bannister, solicitor, that the necessary notices of the inquiry had been published, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act to that effect.

I afterwards notified to the gentlemen who were present that I was ready to hear any evidence they had to offer respecting New Accrington.

C. Hall, Esq., solicitor, then came forward, and requested to know,—

“If the General Board insisted on applying their Public Health Act in any place when the general body of ratepayers were adverse to such a proceeding, and if they had been known to apply the Act in defiance of such a feeling? It must be under-

stood, however, that by putting this question, he did not wish to oppose the introduction of the Public Health Act at Accrington."

Mr. *R. Massey* stated,—

"That several nuisances which had been complained of in Mr. Babbage's report were now removed. He did not think that the Public Health Act could be put in operation in the present temper of the people of Accrington."

Messrs. *Beesley* and *Grimshaw* both gave evidence respecting the present condition of some of the sewers, but I have not thought it necessary to publish the statements of these gentlemen, as they do not in any way bear on the question of the boundary.

The inquiry at Old Accrington was begun on the 23d of September 1852. A large number of persons were present, and I explained to them the general objects contemplated by the Legislature in passing the Public Health Act, and also the bearing that measure was likely to have on the interests of the inhabitants.

The chief portion of the evidence I received related to the number and qualification of the Local Board.

Mr. *Beesley* said,—

"That he was of opinion the qualification for Old Accrington should not exceed 10*l.* rateable value, and that there should be no other qualification with regard to the number of members. He thought that the Local Board of Old Accrington should consist of six persons, and that for New Accrington of nine."

C. Hall, Esq., said,—

"That the 15*l.* qualification was too high, for it did not give the ratepayers a sufficient number of persons from whom to select the Local Board; but if a 10*l.* qualification were adopted, there would, he believed, be no difficulty in obtaining suitable persons to fill the office. He was, therefore, of opinion that the qualification should be fixed at 10*l.*, as under the Municipal Act."

"As regarded the number of members, he considered that New Accrington ought to have twelve, and Old Accrington six."

Mr. *Grimshaw* stated,—

"That he considered the qualification should be the same in both townships, and that it should be fixed at 15*l.*, the amount of personal property being reduced in the same proportion."

C. Hall, Esq., stated,—

"That he wished to draw attention to a suggestion made by Mr. Babbage in his report on the preliminary inquiry, that the sewers should have their outfall in the adjoining township of Church. If this suggestion was to be carried out, he thought it

desirable that the boundary should be extended so as to bring Church also under the jurisdiction of the Local Board."

I received some other evidence during the inquiry, but I do not consider it requisite to publish it, inasmuch as the statements in question referred to some of the recommendations contained in the report on the preliminary inquiry, rather than to questions of fact, and an examination into the former did not form any portion of my duty upon the present occasion.

With respect, however, to the question of the boundary, it may be premised, that two courses are open for adoption. By the first, the townships of Old and New Accrington may be formed into one district, and the Public Health Act applied by Provisional Order. By the second, the two townships may each constitute a separate district, and be provided with distinct Local Boards, in which case the Act will be applied by an Order in Council. Your Honourable Board will decide which of these two courses is the most advisable ; but it may be stated, as an argument in favour of the formation of one district, that it would be a matter of some difficulty to separate the townships, for sanitary works at least, as the boundary between the two not only passes through streets, but in some cases even through dwelling-houses and private property.

With regard to the suggestion of Mr. Hall, that the adjoining township of Church should also be brought within the district, it may be stated, that the chief reason for this extension of the boundary was founded on one of Mr. Babbage's recommendations, that the outfall for the main sewerage should be fixed at Church. It does not, however, appear to me to be necessary to adopt this course, and I do not therefore consider that Church should be brought within the boundary of the Accrington district at present.

If it should be decided that the two townships of Old and New Accrington are to constitute one district, it will be necessary to form each of them into special districts for the purposes of rating, in order that one township may not be saddled with the cost of works executed for the special benefit of the other.

For the same reason, and to give the ratepayers of either township proper representation in the Local Board, it will be necessary to choose a certain number of its members from persons residing in Old, and an equivalent number from those living in New Accrington, in fair proportion to the population and rateable value of the respective townships.

These are as follows :—

Population of New Accrington	-	-	-	8,152
" " Old Accrington	-	-	-	2,217
			£	s. d.
The rateable value of New Accrington is	-	19,389	8	6
" " Old Accrington is	-	6,679	17	5

There are 134 persons in New Accrington, and 53 persons in Old Accrington, rated to the relief of the poor at 15*l*. and upwards, so that an ample number of ratepayers may be found to act as members of the Local Board, if the qualification should be fixed at that sum. I am aware that the weight of evidence I received is in favour of its being reduced to 10*l*., but I do not think this course advisable.

I have already stated that it is open to your Honourable Board to decide whether the Act should be applied to the two townships separately, or whether Old and New Accrington should be united into one district. My own opinion, however, is in favour of the adoption of the last-named course.

I HAVE, THEREFORE, TO RECOMMEND,—

1st. That the provisions of the Public Health Act of 1848, and the Supplemental Act of 1849, except section 50 in the copies of the Act of 1848, printed by Her Majesty's printer, be applied to the district of Accrington, as described in the plan prefixed to Mr. Babbage's original report thereon.

2d. That the Local Board consist of 18 members, of whom twelve shall be chosen from the township of New, and six from the township of Old Accrington.

3d. That the qualification of each member of the Local Board shall consist in the possession of real or personal property, or both, to the value of 500*l*. or in the being rated to the relief of the poor upon an annual value of not less than 15*l*.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM RANGER.

*The General Board of Health,
Whitchall.*



